

MISCELLANEOUS

The following showing of support in the specification for the claim amendments is for illustration purposes only and is not intended to limit the claims to a particular embodiment of the present invention.

Support for Amendments to the Claims

Amended claim 32 recites “a resiliently deformable second annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire.” Support may be found in the specification at least on page 7, line 7-page 8, line 2; page 17, lines 14-26; Figures 1, 8, 10, 18, and 19. For example, as shown in Figures 1, 8, and 10, an annular, resilient clamping ring 30 may be formed of a plurality of strands 32 of resilient wire. Specification, page 7, lines 7-26. In one embodiment, the ring 30 may be formed by wrapping a single length of wire around a mandrel. *Id.* As shown in Figures 18 and 19, a prosthesis 112 may include a ring 30 on its upper end. Specification, page 17, lines 14-26.

Claims 65, 66, 67, 75, and 81 have all been amended to include the term “metal.” Support for this amendment may be found at least at page 7 of the specification, lines 31-32 without limitation to a specific embodiment.

Amended claim 65 also recites “a deformable ring having a diameter.” Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at least at page 8, lines 3-24 and Figures 1-2, without limitation to a specific embodiment. For example, Figure 1 shows a ring 30 that may have a diameter D_K . Specification, page 8, lines 3-24. As shown in Figures 2, 4, and 5, the ring 30 may be deformed. *Id.*

Amended claim 70 recites “said element situated inside a body passage in a C-shaped deformed configuration, folded about a diametric axis of the element.” Support for the amendment may be found in the specification at least at page 8, line 9-page 9, line 23; page 10, line 24-page 11, line 25; Figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, without limitation to a specific embodiment of the invention. For example, as shown in Figure 1, the ring 30 may be folded along its diametric axis “B.” Specification, lines 14-15. As a result, loops 38 may extend proximally relative to points along the diametric axis of folding. Specification, page 8, lines 9-29; page 10, lines 24-33. As shown in Figures 2, 4, and 5, in some instances the ring 30 may be positioned inside a body passage in a C-shaped configuration while making continuous contact with the internal vessel

wall. Specification, page 8, lines 25-29; page 10, lines 24-33. In one embodiment, the C-shaped ring 30 may be positioned within the abdominal aorta proximate to the left and right renal arteries 50 and 52. *Id.* See also Figures 4 and 5. In an embodiment, at least a portion of the loops 38 may extend past the renal arteries and a portion 53 may be located just distally of the openings to the arteries. *Id.*

Claim 82 is a new claim. Support for new claim 82 may be found at least in the specification on page 7, line 6-page 10, line 23; Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10, without limitation to a specific embodiment.

Referring to Figures 1, 8, and 10, in one embodiment a ring 30 may be formed by wrapping a single length of wire around a mandrel having a central axis. Specification, page 7, lines 6-26. The diameter of one coil may generally correspond with an inner diameter of the ring 30 whereas the diameter of another coil may generally correspond with an outer diameter of the ring 30. See Figures 1, 8, and 10. Therefore, in this instance, the coils would have different radii. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 10 the bundle of strands or coils may be generally circular in cross-section, in one embodiment. The ring 30 may be located near one end of a graft 42 in some embodiments. See Figure 3.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the ring 30 may be deformed, which was previously explained with respect to claim 70. Furthermore, the ring 30 may have an uncompressed diameter D_K that is considerably greater than the diameter of the body passage to be treated. Specification, page 8, lines 9-28; page 11, lines 10-19. Therefore, the ring 30 may make continuous resilient contact with the internal wall of the body passage being treated. *Id.* See also, Figures 2, 4, and 5. As illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, at least a portion of the loops 38 of the ring 30 may extend past the left and right renal arteries 50 and 52 while the portion 53 may be located just distally of the openings to the renal arteries 50 and 52. Specification, page 10, lines 24-33. Thus, in some instances, the openings to the renal arteries are not occluded by the positioning of the ring 30 proximate to the openings because of the generally C-shaped configuration of the ring 30 in cross-section. *Id.*

Copending Applications

A list of the copending applications is provided below. The applications are believed to be stored in image format. However, as Application Serial No. 11/205,826 was recently filed, a list

of claims submitted is attached hereto as a courtesy. Examiner Prebilic is requested to refer to the IFW for each of the following copending applications.

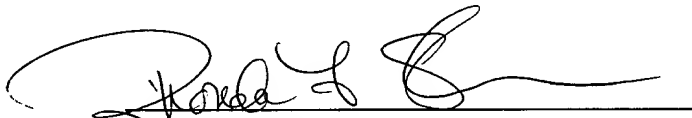
1. Serial No. 10/118,409, filed April 8, 2002, which is a continuation of this application.
2. Serial No. 10/124,944, filed April 18, 2002, which is a divisional of this application.
3. Serial No. 10/832,159, filed April 26, 2004, which is a divisional of application 09/365,860, filed August 3, 1999, which issued as Patent No. 6,740,111, which is a continuation of this application.
4. Serial No. 11/205,826, filed August 17, 2005, which is a continuation of application 10/124,944, filed April 18, 2002, which is a divisional of this application.

Request for Interview

At this time, an in-person interview with examiner Prebilic is scheduled for December 19, 2005 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 1, 2005



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